

Afro-Arab panel revives cooperation

DAMASCUS (R) — An Arab-African sub-committee ended talks Wednesday with an agreement to revive cooperation between the two blocks after a two-year lull, officials said. They said the sub-committee, headed by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara, decided to go ahead with a planned meeting of the full 24-member joint cooperation committee. Representatives from Syria, Sudan, the Congo and Zambia, and the general secretaries of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Arab League took part in the two-day meeting. The full committee, grouping 12 ministers from each side, held its eighth meeting in Damascus in 1986. But a dispute on the status of the Western Sahara blocked the ninth meeting scheduled for Burkina Faso in 1987. The sub-committee, formed to find a compromise to let the organisation continue its work, "The main objective is to revive joint cooperation. The Saharawi issue did not have anything to do with Arab-African ties so it should not affect the process of cooperation," an Arab diplomat told Reuters.

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Jaffa

Saudi locust problem under control

Riyadh (R) — Swarms of desert locusts large enough to block out the sun have invaded northern Saudi Arabia. Officials from the locust research centre said Wednesday the infestation was under control but more of the pests were expected. "Two swarms in Tafuk have been completely controlled," one official said. "There are five swarms in the Al Jouf area but they are under control as well. Some of the swarms are more than two kilometres long. They look like giant clouds as they block out the sun." Two days ago Saudi authorities tackled a swarm stretching over nine square kilometres in the Al Jouf region. Jordan sent two insecticide-spraying vehicles towards the Saudi border as a precaution Wednesday, Agriculture Minister Marwan Al Hmouz said. No locusts had so far penetrated Jordan, partly because prevailing winds had kept them away. The voracious insects are entering Saudi Arabia from Africa because of prevailing westerly winds, the locust research centre official said. Huge concentrations have also been sighted this year in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia. The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has reported extensive damage across North Africa from what it says is the worst locust plague in 30 years.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جريدة تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، داريا.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Royal advisor named

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Wednesday appointing Badia Forces and Border Guards Commander Colonel Sharif Fawwaz Zaben Abdullah as an advisor on tribal affairs to His Majesty King Hussein.

Crown Prince attends army unit iftar

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday attended an iftar banquet hosted by a unit of the Jordanian Armed Forces in his honour. The banquet was attended by senior army officers who performed prayers together with the Prince.

Islamic banks plan \$300m fund

ABU DHABI (R) — Islamic banks in the Gulf are planning a \$300 million fund for investment in Islamic states, a senior banking official said. A committee has been studying steps to set up the fund, proposed by Dubai Islamic Bank, the bank's chairman, Saeed Al-Habib Lootah, told Reuters. "We have finalised a study that is only awaiting approval by the Gulf branch of the International Islamic Banks' Union," he said. Lootah heads the Gulf section of the union, which groups more than 50 banks in Islamic states. He said the fund's capital had been initially set at \$300 million but could be raised depending on subscriptions. There would be 1,000 shares worth \$300,000 and subscription would be limited to Islamic banks and monetary institutions in Islamic countries. Bankers expect the fund to be based in Kuwait or the United Arab Emirates, although no final decision has been taken.

Yemens start steps towards unity

ADEN (R) — A South Yemeni leader returned home Wednesday after signing agreements in North Yemen aimed at uniting the two states. Ali Saleh Al-Baidh, secretary-general of the ruling Socialist Party, told reporters both sides agreed to present a proposed unity constitution to their respective parliaments for study. He said the accords, which included agreement to cooperate in the oil industry, were "a great achievement which silenced war mongers and evil forces." Baidh said steps would be taken to lift travel restrictions.

Iran says 200 Marxists arrested

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian security forces arrested 200 members of the outlawed Marxist Fedayeen-e-Khalq group in the northeastern province of Khorasan, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Wednesday. The agency quoted a security official in the province bordering Afghanistan and the Soviet Union as saying documents and printing machines had been seized from the group, some of whose leaders had been trained in foreign country. The official said two bombs intended to explode in busy city areas were seized from "counter-revolutionaries" in the sweep. He said several foreign spies had also been captured, but did not disclose their nationalities. IRNA said. The official said agents had arrested Khaled Ahmad, a member of the pro-Soviet Tudeh (Communist) Party, when he was crossing into Iran from Afghanistan.

Pakistani minister to visit Moscow

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's acting foreign minister will travel to Moscow Monday for the first high-level meeting with Soviet officials since the Geneva accord on Afghanistan was signed, officials said Wednesday. A Foreign Office spokesman said Minister Zain Noorani would meet with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Soviet-Pakistan relations. However, their talks are expected to centre on how to implement the agreement signed April 14 that provides for a Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan beginning in mid-May.

Strike paralyses occupied lands

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were totally paralysed Wednesday as Palestinians observed a massive general strike as part of the 21-week-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

The strike, the latest of dozens of such protests in the five months of Palestinian uprising, virtually shut down the occupied territories and occupied Jerusalem. It came a day after Israeli soldiers killed three Palestinian protesters.

Palestinians shuttered their

stores and paralysed public transportation in the occupied territories in response to a fiercer distributed last week by the underground leadership of the uprising.

The pamphlet called for Wednesday to be a "complete strike" and a "day of national construction."

The strike was expanded from

2 Palestinians shot dead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli troops shot and killed two Palestinians and wounded 13 Wednesday as a general strike virtually paralysed the occupied territories. The worst clash was reported in the Gaza Strip's Jabalya refugee camp where Israeli soldiers opened fire on a crowd of protesters, killing two and wounding six, Arab reports and hospital officials said. Hospital officials identified the fatalities as Jamal Mahmoud Al Madhoun, 20, and Rizk Hassen Abbah, 17.

a Tuesday shutdown that affected only the Gaza Strip. Few Palestinians went out to their jobs in Israel.

In Ramallah, the only commercial activity seen by an Arab reporter was the selling of newspapers.

Protest marches and stone-throwing incidents were reported throughout the occupied territories and several Palestinians were wounded in clashes with soldiers.

At Nablus even hawkers and street vendors which normally remain open during strikes were reported closed Wednesday. The army clamped a curfew on the adjacent Balata refugee camp where one of the Palestinian deaths was reported Tuesday.

The latest deaths raise to 180 the number of Palestinians killed since the uprising began in December.

In Arab Jerusalem, police and border patrol troops blocked the main commercial street of Shuhada as authorities kept up the pressure on shopkeepers to the pressure on shopkeepers to

(Continued on page 5)

Iraqis bomb Iranian oil centres

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its planes attacked an oil refinery and petrochemical plant Wednesday in the Iranian city of Shiraz and threatened more raids on economic targets.

A high command communiqué said the planes were hit at 1130 a.m. (0730 GMT) in the first such attacks since April 20, when Iraq declared a unilateral halt to the war of the cities.

"Our pilots saw huge columns of smoke billowing from the targets," the communiqué said. Iran claimed it shot down two jets attacking an industrial centre at Shiraz and captured one pilot. It said several civilians were killed in an earlier raid on the city.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Iraqi jets later bombed another industrial centre in the oil town of Gachsaran near Shiraz.

Iraq's conditional ceasefire ex-

cluded economic targets.

Baghdad said Tuesday night Iranian gunners shelled the northern border town of Darbandikan and warned of retaliation if Iran continued to attack Iraqi residential areas. IRNA denied any shelling.

The high command communiqué said Wednesday Iraq would continue attacks on economic targets until Iran accepted U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 ordering a Gulf war ceasefire.

The Iraqi air force has been pounding Iran's refineries and other oil installations for months, seeking to throttle its economy and force it to the negotiating table to end the 7½-year-old war.

Oil industry sources have reported that Iran's refining capacity has been cut by around one-third in recent weeks because of the bombing.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said Iraqi jets later bombed another industrial centre in the oil town of Gachsaran near Shiraz.

Iraq's conditional ceasefire ex-

fined products such as kerosene and jet fuel, said the sources, quoted by the AP.

IRNA said an industrial plant in the oil-producing Gachsaran region, 160 kilometres west of Shiraz, was also bombed in another Iraqi raid.

There was no mention of that raid in the Iraqi communiqué.

Both sides have claimed their border towns have come under artillery fire in recent days, but neither has resumed missile or air attacks on population centres.

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Rabin outlines Labour peace terms

LONDON (AP) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in an interview published Wednesday, called for an Arab-Israeli peace settlement entailing a jointly run Jordanian-Palestinian state in 60 per cent of the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

He said his Labour Party, which shares power with the right-wing Likud bloc in a coalition, insisted that "Jerusalem must be united under Israeli sovereignty and remain its capital."

The "joint Jordanian-Palestinian state" had to be "under one sovereignty, one government, one flag and one capital — Amman," Rabin told Jane's Defence Weekly.

He ruled out Israeli withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders, saying changes must be made "to be included under Israel's sovereignty."

Also, he said, Israel insisted on a "defence line" along the Jordan Valley, which would effectively leave the rest of the West Bank sandwiched between the Israeli army and the 1948 Armistice lines.

Rabin said this meant 60 per cent of the West Bank and Gaza would be part of the Jordanian-Palestinian state.

In handling the five-month-old wave of Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza, "the political guideline is not to allow violence to gain the upper hand... it will achieve nothing," Rabin said.

He declined to deny or confirm reports that Israel and China have jointly developed missiles, saying Israeli policy was to withdraw on arms deals.

"I will not give you a clearcut answer, but by saying so, I am not confirming anything about the relations between Israel and the People's Republic of China," Rabin said.

"But otherwise, anything is possible and the French government will have the heavy responsibility of endangering the prisoners' lives."

A FLNKS spokesman warned of an uprising in New Caledonia if French soldiers carried out an assault.

He expressed concern about the appearance of ground-to-ground missiles and chemical weapons in the Middle East arena.

Angolan peace talks end in London; progress reported

LONDON (R) — South Africa, Angola, Cuba and the United States ended two days of talks in London Wednesday and a joint statement reported progress had been made.

The statement, issued after three negotiating sessions in an expensive London hotel, said the four nations had agreed that a follow-up meeting would take place at an unnamed African venue in the near future.

"The meetings took place in a constructive atmosphere and progress was made," the joint communiqué said.

The talks, the first held between the four parties involved in the 13-year-old Angolan war, was chaired by Assistant U.S. Secretary of State Chester Crocker who headed the U.S. delegation.

A joint Angolan-Cuban delegation, in which Risquet represented Cuba, was headed by Angolan Foreign Minister Afonso van-Dunem while the director of South Africa's department of foreign affairs, Neil van Heerden, led his country's delegation.

The talks went well and there has been an advance." Cuba's senior negotiator politburo member Jorge Risquet told reporters.

Kanak militants warn France against rescue bid

NOUMEA (R) — Militant Melanesian separatists in New Caledonia warned France Wednesday not to use troops to try to rescue 23 hostages held in a cave, saying such an attempt would endanger the hostages' lives.

The main independence movement in the South Pacific territory said it believed French soldiers were planning to attack the hideout on the eastern island of Ouvéa, where rebels armed with axes, machetes and guns are holding magistrate and 22 gendarmes.

The Kanak Socialist National

Liberation Front (FLNKS), which also requested a "dialogue" with Paris authorities, said in a statement: "We have always guaranteed the lives of the prisoners as long as the French government remains ready to find a peaceful solution.

"If we do not succeed,

we will have to see," he said.

"We do not want to be responsible for the deaths of the 23 hostages."

A FLNKS spokesman warned of an uprising in New Caledonia if French soldiers carried out an assault.

He expressed concern about the appearance of ground-to-ground missiles and chemical weapons in the Middle East arena.

King addresses dignitaries and notables in Mafraq Governorate

'Jordan seeks just peace but will not compromise over any inch of Arab land'

MAFRAQ (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Wednesday that while Jordan would continue to exert all-out efforts for just and honourable peace in the Middle East it would not compromise or bargain over any inch of Arab land.

In Ramallah, the only commercial activity seen by an Arab reporter was the selling of newspapers.

Protest marches and stone-throwing incidents were reported throughout the occupied territories and several Palestinians were wounded in clashes with soldiers.

At Nablus even hawkers and street vendors which normally remain open during strikes were reported closed Wednesday. The army clamped a curfew on the adjacent Balata refugee camp where one of the Palestinian deaths was reported Tuesday.

In remarks made at an iftar banquet he hosted for dignitaries, notables and officials from Mafraq Governorate, King said that Jordan, side by side with its search for peace, would also continue to build its armed forces to defend itself and shield the rest of

(Continued on page 5)

French hostages freed

BEIRUT (AP) — Three French hostages held in Lebanon by extremists since 1985 were freed Wednesday in west Beirut, local reports said. Diplomats Marcel Carton and Marcel Fontaine, and journalist Jean Paul Kauffmann were set free near the Summerland hotel in the seaside Jounieh neighbourhood at 7:20 p.m. (1720 GMT), local radio stations said.

Heavy fighting was reported on the second day of a drive by some 2,000 Israeli troops and their South Lebanon Army (SLA) allies to root out resistance forces in the area.

An SLA official in the town of Marjayoun, inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" along its northern border, said an Israeli captain was killed and two soldiers were wounded.

Israel said it killed 30 members of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God) but censors made deletions in reports on the fighting from the Israeli side.

Dozens of Amal militiamen and Hezbollah fighters, wearing military fatigues and black headbands, crammed into civilian cars to head from this village to join the battle at nearby Maidoun.

Others drove trucks mounted with anti-aircraft guns to the scene, some eight kilometres outside the "security zone."

The militiamen, looking weary but determined, said the combatants were only 20 metres apart at some points in Maidoun.

Security and Hezbollah sources

said the Israelis and the SLA

captured Maidoun, only five kilometres from the Syrian-held town of Mashghara, but fighting continued around the village.

Mashghara, gateway to the Beqaa Valley, came under heavy artillery attack with shells landing at the rate of 20 a minute, and

residents fled the battle.

Syrian troops in Mashghara, estimated to number 600, said they were not involved in the battles and it was not clear whether the shells rocking the town hit any of their positions or checkpoints.

"This is a political decision whether we fight or not and so far we have not received orders," said one soldier. Most of the Syrian troops evacuated their checkpoints or were behind sandbagged positions.

The militiamen said they fired a SAM-7 missile at an Israeli helicopter but did not hit it. They said they destroyed three Israeli tanks.

Reuter correspondents in this village, between Maidoun and Mashghara, said at least 10 Israeli

(Continued on page 5)

Militia battles flare in Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival militia

men clashed with mortars across

Beirut's dividing green line

Wednesday amid reports of growing

tension between, rightist

irregulars and the Lebanese army.

Police said no casualties were

Fao: Beginning of the end for Iranian regime



Iraqi soldiers hoisting the Iraqi flag on an abandoned Iranian position



Jordanian journalists with victorious Iraqi soldiers under a portrait of President Saddam Hussein

THE first occupied Arab land to be liberated by military force during the 20th century, the Fao peninsula, is a vast area, extending over 300 square kilometres, full of nature's mishaps and natural obstacles, but to the Iraqis and Arabs it is part of the Arab homeland and it was liberated in a battle that lasted only 34 hours.

The Fao peninsula, known to the Iraqis as the Mameah district, is surrounded by water on three sides, with salt constituting the bulk of its soil. Mameah, derived from the Arabic word *mih* — salt. This has turned the earth into something similar to quick sand.

The only road into the area was originally built by the Iraqis. This is an open route that runs below sea level. The road could not be used by the Iraqis during their military offensive. The road was protected on both sides by wired

and mined areas placing further difficulties in front of Iraq's past attempts to liberate the Fao.

Since the Fao was occupied by Iran in 1986, Iraq had been training certain factions of its army on a plan that would achieve liberation, they built another Fao somewhere in Iraq, where all the natural features of the area were copied and soldiers were trained over two years.

Surprise

The crucial element was surprise, and the Iraqi army, backed by proper training, waited for the right moment to put together all the ingredients for victory. The moment came on the first day of the holy month of Ramadan, and the land that took the Iranians two months and thousands of killed to occupy was liberated in 34 hours.

Three different corps of the Iraqi army invaded the area at 6:30 a.m. on the first day of Ramadan with the elite presidential guards taking the lead and executing the first two stages of the operation. The cadre of the Iraqi seventh division backed by an armoured division completed the operation.

When this reporter visited the area 11 days after it was liberated, almost all corpses and artillery shells had already been removed. But the aura of war was still in the air overwhelmed only by Iraqis jubilation in their victory.

The first thought that hits the impartial visitor, is the apparent vastness of the area. It extends endlessly as far as the human eye could see, and almost in every metre there is an obstacle of nature's making. One stands there and feels awed: the Arabs have finally achieved a victory, they have liberated an occupied Arab land with force.

Jubilant Iraqi soldiers, greeted the Jordanian press delegation with signs of victory and whispers of what the soldiers call their "little dream," suppressed now by the ongoing Iraq-Iran war; in their minds a duty that one day they will perform is the liberation of another occupied Arab land, Palestine.

The Iraqis left their "finger prints" all over the area. A Sunni mosque's minaret was hit when Iran occupied the area. During

the occupation the Iranians turned the mosque into a part reconnaissance centre and part kitchen. On the other hand, another mosque which was adopted as a Shi'ite mosque by the Iranians, had pro-Khomeini and Islamic Jihad slogans all over the walls of the mosque.

A library at the Iranian military command centre, housed hundreds of books on Khomeini's Islamic revolution. Some books had in their folds letters by Iranian soldiers to their families.

Visitors to the area, at this stage mostly journalists, were appalled by the huge loss of life. Although bodies had been removed before the arrival of the Jordanian press delegation, this reporter saw body parts littering the sides of the main road into the Fao area. Regardless of whether they were those of Iraqi or Iranian soldiers, journalists' happiness over the Iraqi victory was slightly marred by the horrors of the continuation of the eight-year-old war.

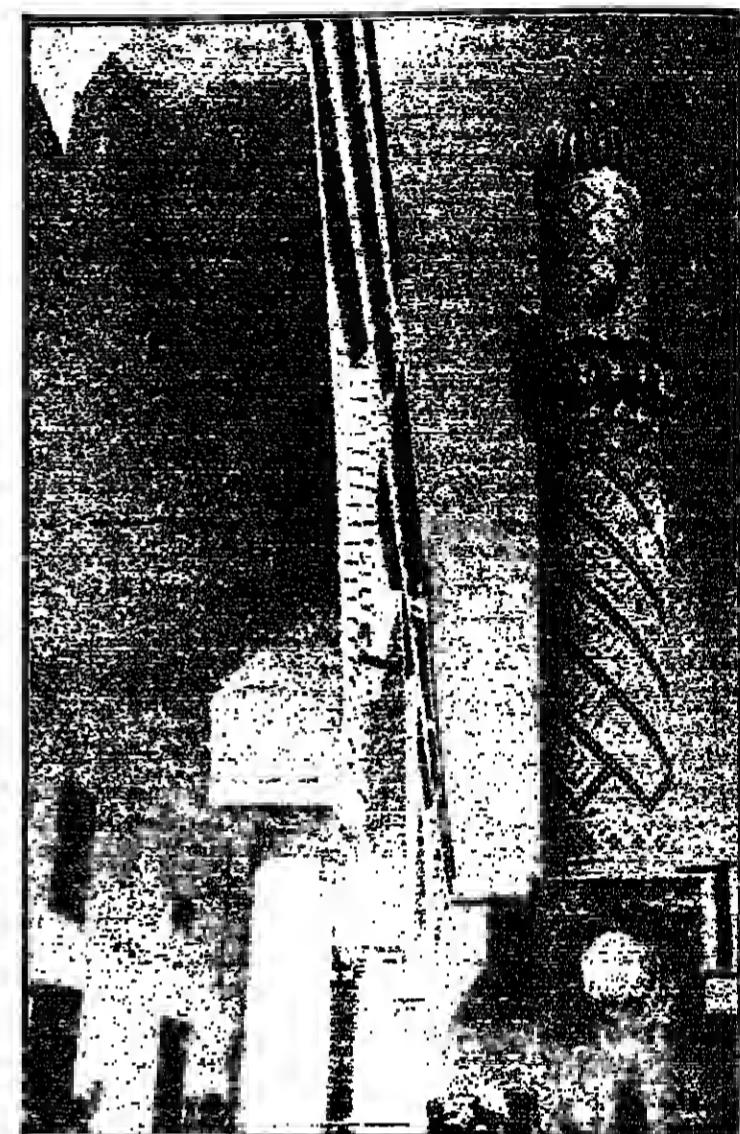
The Iraqi victory in Fao holds wider meaning for the whole Gulf area. Not only is it an Iraqi victory, it is a move that provided the whole Gulf area, especially Kuwait, with protection against the Iranian regime's aggressiveness. As one military official said, "what can I tell you about the Fao victory? It has protected Iraq and the Gulf."

Some analysts who have studied the development of the Gulf war over the past eight years, described the Fao liberation, as the "beginning of the end for the Iranian regime," they also predicted that the war will not continue beyond 1989, ending with an Iraqi victory.

Jordan Times Staff Reporter Nermene Murad, who visited the Fao peninsula after the Iraqis retook it from Iran last month, reports:



Photos by Khalil Mazraawi



Fao mosque used by occupying Iranian troops

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| 16:30 Thousand and One Nights | Evening Show Contd. |
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| 16:45 Cooking programme | Evening Show Contd. |
| 17:00 Religious series | News Headlines |
| 17:35 Health and Fasting | Closedown |
| 17:45 Arabic comedy | |
| 18:35 Ramadan contest | |
| 19:00 Religious programme | |
| 19:30 Varieties programme | |
| 20:00 News in Arabic | |
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| 12:30 News Summary | |
| 13:00 News in French | |
| 13:15 Le Monde: Selvin Georges | |
| 13:30 News in Hebrew | |
| 13:45 Varieties | |
| 20:00 News in Arabic | |
| 21:10 Charlie Chaplin | |
| 22:00 Wish Me Luck | |
| 22:20 Feature film: "Vanishing Act" | |

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21:1

National News

Minister meets envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Higher Education Minister Nasseruddine Al Assad Wednesday met with Pakistan's Ambassador to Jordan Saghir Hussein Syed to discuss Jordanian-Pakistani cooperation in higher education.

They also reviewed the conditions of Jordanian students in Pakistani universities in the light of the recent Pakistani government increases of university fees.

The minister and the ambassador discussed the prospect of exempting Jordanian students from paying the extra fees if they were registered at Pakistani universities before the new regulations were issued.

Later the minister met with the Indonesian Ambassador here Sumario Soro Kosomo to discuss Jordanian-Indonesian cooperation in higher education.

The discussion covered the exchanges of visits by university students and the signing of a cultural agreement.



Higher Education Minister Nasseruddine Al Assad meets with Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Saghir Hussein Syed (above) and Indonesian Ambassador



to Jordan Sumario Soro Kosomo (below) in his office Wednesday (Petra photo)

French centre, Yarmouk discuss cooperation

IRBID (Petra) — Cooperation between the French national research centre in Paris and Yarmouk University was discussed at a meeting here Wednesday by Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan and the French centre's research department director.

The French centre is specialised in archaeological excavations and is conducting excavations at the Abu Hamid site in cooperation with Yarmouk University.

The president and the French visitor discussed the prospect of publishing the findings of the excavation work and also setting up an exhibition in September to display Jordan's antiquities and newly discovered artifacts in cooperation with the Jordanian Department of Antiquities.

Zarqa governorate to plant more trees

ZARQA (Petra) — The Agricultural Department in Zarqa has embarked on a process to remove and eliminate weeds in the forest regions at Aalouk, Bierien and Massarat in the Zarqa governorate, according to department officials.

They said that the department at the same time embarked on a programme of planting forest

trees along side the Zarqa River with the purpose of preventing soil erosion and beautification of the area.

Trees will be planted along 16 kilometres, stretching from Tawihin Al Udwah to the Al Shukmeh River.

The total number of trees to be planted they said, will be nearly 26,000.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

TEACHERS REDISTRIBUTION: The Department of Education in Ma'an Wednesday discussed redistribution of teachers at schools in the governorate, and the condition of schools in Ma'an area in the presence of school principals. Also discussed were financial and administrative affairs at schools.

SEMINAR ON SHEEP: A seminar was held in Karak Wednesday on means of fattening sheep for the market. The participants, who included members of the Karak agricultural cooperatives, discussed projects underway for fattening sheep, diseases affecting the animals and means of protection against diseases through vaccinations.

TALKS WITH WORLD BANK: Ministry of Planning Secretary General Zayn Fariz will pay a visit to Washington next month for negotiations with World Bank officials to obtain a \$60 million loan to Jordan. The loan will be used to finance a number of telecommunications projects, which will be carried out by the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) to upgrade telecommunication in the Kingdom.

LABOUR CONFERENCE: Minister of Labour and Social Development Rashid Ureikat will lead Jordan's delegation to the international labour conference which will be held in Geneva in June. A working paper on the condition of Arab workers in the occupied territories will be submitted to the three-day conference.

MAN JAILED FOR 6 YEARS: The military court has sentenced Khaleel Muss Abdulla Hassan to six years imprisonment and fined him JD 1,500 for trafficking heroin. The sentence has been endorsed by the military governor.

DELEGATION NAMED: The cabinet has formed Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the executive bureau of Arab Transport Ministers' Council which will be held in Tunis on June 21. The delegation will be led by Minister of Transport and Communications Khalid Al Haj Hassan. The two-day meeting will discuss working papers on ways to boost inter-Arab relations in land, sea and air transport.

ENVY TO TUNIS: Jordan's Ambassador in Tunis Wednesday discussed with officials at the Tunisian Ministry of Transport and Tourism, bilateral cooperation in tourism especially after the operation of a new air route between Amman and Tunis. The ambassador also discussed Jordanian-Tunisian cooperation in the field of information with the director general of the Tunisian Radio and Television.

TABAAT MEETS SUDDARTH: American Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Suddarth discussed with Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Hamdi Tabataa Wednesday Jordanian-U.S. relations. The meeting took place at the minister's office.

POLISH AIDE: Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nabil Al Nimer Wednesday met with the director of the Middle East and African Relations Department at the Polish Foreign Ministry currently on a visit to Jordan and reviewed with him Jordanian-Polish relations.

DONATIONS: The Jordanian public committee for supporting the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories has received JD 850,000 in donations for the people living under Israeli rule, according to Al Dustour Arabic daily.

COMPENSATION: Authorities responsible for the development of the Badia regions plan to offer compensation to bedouins for the loss of their water, which is being drawn from Badia areas and to be used for carrying out comprehensive development schemes in different regions. A total of 18 million cubic metres of water were being used annually for projects in Jafr, Disi and Shidieh phosphate mines; and also from Azraq, north east of Amman, according to Al Dustour newspaper.

ABANDA LEAVES FOR CHINA: Meteorology Department Director Ali Abanda left for Peking Wednesday on a two-week visit organised by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU). The visit is in the course of a special ITU programme of technical cooperation in developing countries, carried out within the framework of the United Nations Development Programme. During the visit Abanda will hold talks with officials and tour a number of meteorology centres in China.

TRANSPORT TALKS: Officials from Jordan and Egypt will open a three-day meeting in Cairo Saturday to discuss measures for improving and developing transportation between the two countries via the Aqaba-Nuweiba ferry route.

Society for handicapped holds cultural programme

AMMAN (Petra) — A day-long activities by the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped, was held Wednesday at the society headquarters in Amman.

The activities comprised cultural and recreational programmes designed to encourage handicapped children to become creative and participate in useful work.

The activities which were sponsored and organised by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF)

offer handicapped children a good opportunity to embark on inventive and creative work of their own.

The NHF is sponsoring these activities within a special educational programme, which is being implemented in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education, and which entails training instructors in means of imparting education to handicapped children.

Arab Traffic Day

The ceremony also marks the

architectural exhibition set up by the Ministry of Public Works displaying architectural projects that are entries in a competition which will decide the best and most suitable for governors' residents.

Thirteen engineering offices in Jordan have taken part in the competition.

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'No compromise over land'

(Continued from page 1)

the Arab Nation from aggression. The King recalled that Jordan had faced numerous challenges and was subjected to various economic pressures in the past but had firmly withstood all these difficulties.

Jordan and the Jordanian people will constitute a strong fortress in the face of all hostile elements and all forms of aggression, the King said.

The King voiced deep pride in the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza and said Jordan would continue to extend help and support for the Palestinians.

Jordan will continue to seek an international peace conference to help the Palestinian people regain their land and their rights and is ready to attend this conference independently or in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the King said.

Jordan has noted that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had approached an Arab country for forming a joint delegation to the conference and this means that the PLO is willing to attend jointly with other Arab delegations, the King said.

The Great Arab Revolt, which broke out at the turn of the century, came to liberate and unify the Arab people everywhere and the late Al Hussein Ibn Ali defended Arab rights in Palestine and was banished and exposed to all forms of hardships because of his noble stand, King Hussein said.

He said King Abdullah led the Armed Forces to defend the Arab land and was able to save the West Bank and the Arab city of Jerusalem from Israeli occupation.

Israel, King Hussein said, does not realise that force cannot achieve peace despite having witnessed the result through 20 years of occupying Arab land in Palestine and in its recurrent invasions of Lebanon. Israel needs to ignore justice which is instrumental for any permanent and honourable peace, the King said.

The King reviewed domestic achievements and said the Armed Forces which numbered 6,500 thirty-five years ago now number 120,000. He said Jordan considers any aggression on any Arab land as directed against Jordan and for this reason it continues to support Iraq, which is defending the Arab Order and protecting the Arabian Peninsula and the Arab countries at large from Iranian attempts to build a Persian empire at Arab expense.

Strike paralyses occupied lands

(Continued from page 1)

open their stores.

In Hebron, a bus was set on fire and destroyed Wednesday morning when it came to take workers to their jobs despite the general strike. No one was hurt.

A large procession was held in the village of Bani Naim where troops shot dead two Palestinians Tuesday, villagers said. The village was declared a closed military area and soldiers looked on but did not interfere in the march.

Meanwhile, Israeli police said they were considering charging a Palestinian woman with causing the death of an Israeli girl who was accidentally shot by an Israeli settler.

An official army report said last week Jewish settler Tirza Porat, 15, was accidentally shot

"We feel we are not giving enough to Iraq to help it fend off the danger but we are optimistic and encouraged that victory will be on the Arab side," the King said.

The King referred to the question of national unity and said:

"We often hear the term - 'national forces' and 'national elements' but there is no group within the united Jordanian family which has the right to claim to be a national force independent from the rest of the Jordanian family. National forces mean a national and collective resistance against the colonialist and the foreign occupier of our land. All our people and our brothers in the occupied territories form a national force confronting the colonialist invasion."

"Here, this country is the property of all citizens and therefore all of us are equal in rights and responsibilities."

"We inherited from our grandfathers and the principles of the Great Arab Revolt and strive to achieve its goals. Every Arab citizen is part of the national force regardless of his origin or homeland."

"Every Jordanian citizen has rights and responsibilities like any other member of the Jordanian family. This should be the basis for our national unity so as to prevent any enemy attempts to draw a wedge amongst us or achieve his evil goals."

"All citizens, whether they are from the East or the West Bank, have equal rights here and we will continue to support the Palestinians with all our might to enable them to regain their rights and their land sooner or later."

"We have to be alert and ready for confronting Israel's conspiracies and any force that supports Israel."

"We will leave no stone unturned in the search for a just and honourable peace, but we will not compromise or bargain over any inch of Arab land."

"Neither I as a Hashemite nor any member of my family will ever betray the trust, no matter how mighty the Israeli enemy is."

"Despite Israel's military and nuclear power and regardless of the type of weapon in Israel's band, we firmly believe that the land shall return to its lawful owners and there can be no alternative to an international conference for achieving peace based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338."

"Arab Jerusalem should return to Arab sovereignty and the Palestine problem should be solved in all its aspects and Arab rights and lands should be returned so that a lasting peace can be achieved."

The iftar was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Oqaili, Court Minister Adwan Abu Odeh, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Cabinet members and other officials."

Hassan II, U.N. chief hold private talks

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco and United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar had an hour-long private talk Tuesday night on the 12-year-old Western Sahara conflict, the U.N. chief's spokesman said Wednesday.

Spokesman Francois Giuliani said Perez de Cuellar would now contact the Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence of the former Spanish territory.

Morocco has severed ties with Algeria and quit the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) because it admitted Polisario's self-styled Saharan Arab Democratic Republic as a member in 1984.

The U.N. and the OAU are trying to resolve the issue through a referendum. A U.N. technical mission visited the area last November to gather data for arranging a ceasefire and a referendum.

Giuliani said no sides were present at the talks, which followed an iftar at the royal palace.

France expels former hostage intermediary

PARIS (AP) — Oman Adham, a Syrian businessman who has undertaken several mediation missions for the release of French hostages in Lebanon, was expelled from France Tuesday night, Arab diplomatic and French government sources said.

They said the Interior Ministry used a special administrative procedure, "absolute urgency," to expel Adham, who is said to be close to Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad.

The procedure means judicial approval is not necessary. It is also used to expel Basque separatists to Spain.

The expulsion order was signed by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua and Adham left Tuesday night by plane for another European capital, the sources said.

The ministry declined to comment.

Adham has a Syrian diplomatic passport but is not on the official diplomatic list issued by the Foreign Ministry. He has resided in Paris for 11 years and his wife and four children are French.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Pasqua, who is close to Premier Jacques Chirac, was announced by Adham's persistent statements to the media about an imminent release of the three hostages just before the first round of the presidential elections April 24.

It was Perez de Cuellar's second round of discussions with the king since he arrived Monday to press for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

The spokesman did not say when Perez de Cuellar would confer with Polisario, but the U.N. chief had said earlier that he hoped to meet Algerian, Mauritanian and Polisario leaders during an OAU summit in Addis Ababa later this month.

When Spain ceded the Western Sahara in 1975 it was divided between Mauritania and Morocco.

Perez de Cuellar was scheduled to visit Mauritania and Algeria after Morocco but announced Monday that because of unspecified problems in New York he was cutting short his tour in order to be back at U.N. headquarters Thursday.

Giuliani said Perez de Cuellar, who was spending the day inspecting U.N. offices in Rabat, was to leave for New York via Paris Wednesday afternoon.

New U.S. naval protection policy now in effect in Gulf

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The new U.S. policy of extending naval protection to neutral ships in the Gulf has been formally implemented, the Defence Department said Tuesday.

Under the new policy announced last Friday, U.S. warships in the Gulf may come to the aid of any neutral, friendly commercial ship not serving ports in Iran or Iraq if the ship comes under attack in international waters.

Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci said last Friday the new policy would be implemented "once we have informed those free world, non-belligerent countries that maintain shipping interests in the Gulf."

Dan Howard, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, said "The appropriate people have been notified" and the new policy was now "in effect."

Howard said the policy applied only to both Iran and Iraq when it came to breaking up attacks on merchant ships.

"If it meets the criteria... then the rules are the same for whoever the attacker might be," Howard said.

The spokesman noted, however, that the United States did not expect any confrontations with Iraqi forces because that country has limited its attacks to ships steaming inside certain declared exclusion or war zones.

"The pattern is pretty clear," said Howard. "The exceptions, the attacks have been for the most part by Iran outside the exclusion zone."

"We are prepared, under certain circumstances, to offer assistance to... non-belligerent vessels serving 'neutral ports' that are attacked by anyone outside the exclusion zones."

The Pentagon said most of what it estimated were 201 attacks by Iran since early 1986

had been outside the zone. It estimated that 171 shipping attacks were made by Iraq during that period and that all but three of them were believed to have occurred inside the Iranian war exclusion zone on the eastern edge of the Gulf.

The U.S. takes all such threats seriously and has advised posts to take appropriate precautions," Redman said.

A warning was sent last Wednesday to U.S. diplomatic missions, military installations and American companies.

State Department officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, quoted the warning as

saying: "The U.S. government possesses information which leads it to believe that the government of Iran will authorise terrorist attacks against U.S. targets in the very near future. We further believe that these attacks will be deliberately designed to cause U.S. fatalities and/or destruction to U.S. assets."

It said the Middle East, South-East Asia and Europe were the most likely areas for attack.

State Department officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, quoted the warning as

Israel accepts mediation on Taba, not U.S. formula

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli leaders agreed Wednesday to empower U.S. envoy Abraham Sofaer to mediate between Israel and Egypt over their Taba border dispute but without accepting his proposal, Israeli officials said.

Israel rejected Taba when it withdrew from the rest of the Sinai Peninsula under the 1979 treaty with Egypt. It claims that on older maps, the area was part of Palestine and should now belong to Israel.

The arbiters were due to render their verdict by July 15 as the latest but diplomats had said it could be issued this month unless the parties request a delay.

A senior Egyptian official said in Cairo Tuesday that Egypt would accept no compromise that gave it less than "full and absolute sovereignty" over Taba.

Foreign ministry officials have said Peres regards the Sofaer proposal as a worthwhile outline.

Sofaer was on his way to Cairo to seek Egyptian agreement to mediation, they said.

If both sides give the green light for another U.S. diplomatic effort, Israel and Egypt must ask the three-man international arbitration panel before May 10

to postpone deliberation of its verdict.

Diplomats said a clear-cut victory for either side from the arbitration could be a serious setback for Israel's shaky relations with Egypt.

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withdrew from the rest of the Sinai Peninsula under the 1979 treaty with Egypt. It claims that on older maps, the area was part of Palestine and should now belong to Israel.

Officials said Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed that Sofaer should continue his effort to settle the dispute amicably before international arbitrators render their verdict on the future of the 700-metre strip.

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He awaits resettlement in the United States.

A friend of Desta has not been so lucky. The 19-year-old Ethiopian, who would allow the use only of his given name Ahmad, said he is in limbo, without identity papers and facing an uncertain future.

He lost his refugee status because he left Djibouti, the country where it was granted.

UNHCR rules require asylum-seekers to remain where they are proclaimed refugees in order to be resettled.

I went to border town by truck, then on to Sudan and Egypt by foot. Forty days of walking, except for three days on a boat on the Nile," Ahmad said.

He and others turn to the refugee ministry at St. Andrew's after rejection by the UNHCR to get help with efforts to legalise their stay and eventually to resettle.

"We continue trying to see if they really need help," said Nelly van Doorn, a Dutch volunteer at the ministry. "They're so scared they lie a lot, but when you hear the truth, it's so much worse."

Resistance battles Israelis

(Continued from page 1)

dead by Roman Aldubi, another settler, during a clash in the West Bank village of Beita April 6.

The report contended that Aldubi, who accompanied a group of teenage settlers as a security guard, lost control of his machine gun after a Palestinian woman threw a stone at his head.

Police said they were considering charging the woman with causing the death of an Israeli girl who was accidentally shot by an Israeli settler.

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The operation is the most expensive since Feb. 17, 1986, when Israel poured over 1,000 troops and dozens of tanks into southern Lebanon to search for two soldiers captured by Lehanese resistance. The soldiers were never found.

Security sources in South Lebanon said Israel dispatched two mechanised battalions into the area Tuesday night, doubling the size of their invading force to about 2,500 troops.

At noon (1000 GMT) Wednesday, the Israelis withdrew from the villages of Ain Ata, Memis, Kfeir, Khalwat and Ain Zeta after "completing the search," a police spokesman said.

He said they rounded up 12 men in the five villages.

The Israelis also "seized large quantities of weapons and ammunition," the spokesman said.

A Palestinian spokesman said that within 48 hours we will be able to bring it to a conclusion and to bring our forces back to the bases from which they set out," Rabin said.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Shamir said the push would not lead to a prolonged entanglement in Lebanon or provoke a confrontation with Syria.

Speaking in the north Galilee town of Beit Shean, Shamir said Israel did not plan to expand its

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Need for interest rate liberalisation oscillates among bankers in Jordan

By Salameh Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A consensus emerged at a seminar Wednesday over the need to introduce new flexibility to interest rates in the Jordanian financial system despite some reservations by Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) officials and private bankers.

The seminar on "interest rate liberalisation," co-sponsored by the CBJ and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), heard several views on the pros and cons of deregulation and on calls for structural adjustments in the Kingdom's financial body to accompany steps towards more liberalisation tailored for the country's needs.

Maher Shukri

CBJ Deputy Governor Maher Shukri said the central bank policy is to gradually introduce more flexibility in interest rates, stressing the need for new financial instruments to be adopted by the financial community.

"We care for stability in the economy that is ensured by a sound banking system," Shukri told the seminar. He discussed the importance of reconsidering the prices of banking services and guaranteeing banks' profitability as a basis for a sound financial system.

David Willey

Dr. David Willey, an advisor with the U.S. Morgan Stanley International Inc. said that economic liberalisation introduced all over the world affected changes on the banking profession and forced banks to "scour around and become more entrepreneurial."

Dismissing arguments against deregulation, Willey said liberalisation "does not mean a loss in profitability for banks" as a result of a possible rise in interest rates, but that such a move would only force banks to improve management and efficiency or lose out to market forces.

He warned that a continued ceiling on interest rates in Jordan could lead to a capital outflow and that liberalisation of interest rates had to apply on lending as well as deposits if the process is going to be effective in boosting economic activity.

Furthermore, Willey said that free interest rates "should not be associated with higher rates."

Michel Marto

Bank of Jordan General Manager Michel Marto agreed with Willey that control of interest rates adversely affected efficiency but pointed out that "U.S. and Jordanian economies are different," and that Jordan "does not have the U.S. ability to attract (foreign) funds."

Referring to CBJ's licensing of foreign banks in Jordan, Marto argued that "the fact that Jordan overbanked did not add much to either banking techniques nor did it increase efficiency and improve competition."

He said the CBJ-imposed ceiling on deposit and lending rates have made investment in Jordan more difficult.

Commenting on Willey's paper, Marto said that in Jordan's case, monetary policy "has to be very innovative to get the country out of the present slowdown."

He said that one advantage Jordan had was that CBJ "never forced banks to allocate a percentage of their credit to certain sectors" which, he added, "causes distortions."

Umaya Touqan

CBJ's Dr. Umaya Touqan spoke against deregulation and questioned the need for further liberalisation.

He said that according to studies on Jordan's financial system, higher interest rates in the Kingdom did not affect currency exchange rates as is the case in the United States.

He said he did not consider Jordanian interest rates as overregulated and that there was enough room for economic activity.

Munther Fahoum

Munther Fahoum, a senior Arab Bank official was against deregulation but backed calls for

more flexibility and adjustments in the present financial system.

He speculated that decontrolling interest rates could cause these rates to shoot up to over 15 per cent on deposits and over 17 per cent on loans.

Such a development, he predicted, would sink financial companies into the red and cause depression.

He said that high rates on deposits "would keep the money in banks" and subsequently aggravate the problem on unemployment with the decline in investments.

Fahed Fanek

Prominent economist Fahed Fanek disagreed with Fahoum's analysis saying the latter's arguments were based on a static situation and that market forces were capable of readjusting and reshaping the whole system.

"We feel quite comfortable with the present system, with some adjustments and more flexibility," he added.

Jawad Hadid

Also speaking at the seminar, Arab Jordan Investment Bank Deputy General Manager Jawad Hadid said that liberalising interest rates must be accompanied by a comprehensive restructuring of the whole financial system in Jordan.

"Pursuing such a policy under rigid structure of interest rates will subject the Jordan dinar to substantial fluctuations which would lead savers to hedge against its depreciation by buying foreign currency and transferring their savings abroad."

Jardaneh suggested that "it is appropriate to support this policy by a flexible interest rate structure in order to allow the market to determine at what return a saver in Jordan will continue to hold the Jordan dinar without a need for hedging."

"Unless such a policy is being pursued," he warned, "it could be argued that the authorities in Jordan are creating a serious situation that encourages capital flight and limits capital inflow."

Khalil Salem

Arab Financial Corporation Chairman Khalil Salem advocated that before any changes are done on the financial system, there is a need to find out "to

what extent are our investments sensitive to interest rates and whether there is a real correlation between them."

"We have to know first to what extent the CBJ rate is the pivot around which everything else revolves," he said.

Dr. Salem, a former finance minister and former central bank governor, was in favour of innovations but at the same time, he warned: "We should not think that what is good for the Philippines and the United States should work for Jordan. Let us first find out the weaknesses in our system."

Basil Jardaneh

Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation Managing Director Basil Jardaneh said it was preferable in Jordan to leave it to the market forces to determine an interest rate structure that will create a balance between financial variables.

Regarding the foreign exchange market, Jardaneh said the monetary authority in Jordan is following a flexible policy with regard to determining the value of the Jordan dinar.

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Xerox introduces new copiers

NEW YORK (AP) — Xerox Corp. marked the 50th anniversary year of plain-paper copying Tuesday with a new line of products that includes its first personal copier, made for Xerox by Japanese rival Sharp Corp.

The members of the 50 series have more features and higher

price tags than members of Xerox's successful 10 series, which helped the company begin to regain market share.

Xerox had long resisted introducing a personal copier, saying it could not justify the investment necessary to compete with Japanese companies.

Oil prices may tumble to \$10 a barrel

JAKARTA (R) — OPEC is divided over how much to cut output to prop up world oil prices, with one group fearing a

slump back to \$10 a barrel unless strong production cuts are made, an authoritative OPEC source said Wednesday.

"Countries like Iran, Algeria, Venezuela and Libya consider if there are no production cuts by OPEC and non-OPEC producers, oil prices may go down to \$10 a barrel," said the source, who spoke to Indonesian reporters on condition he was not identified.

Oil prices crashed to less than \$10 a barrel in 1986 but recovered through joint action by the 13-member Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which set a reference price of \$18.

New downward pressure on prices in 1988 brought an offer from some non-OPEC producers to join OPEC in curbing exports. But a meeting of the group in Vienna last week failed to agree on OPEC action in response to the offer.

Referring to last week's OPEC meeting, the source said there were basically three camps within the group, with differing views about how to respond to the non-OPEC offer.

"Bur Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries did not want to lower their production by so much," he added.

"Another group, comprising

members of the differences among members. The first group suggested that production cuts (among OPEC members) of between 600,000 and one million barrels per day are needed to prevent prices from falling to \$10 a barrel."

"The third group, including Indonesia and Nigeria, estimate the current oil supply in the world market at around 64 days and it is not too great to affect prices. We believe prices, when they do go down, will only decline slightly," the source added.

"These are the differences among members. The first group suggested that production cuts (among OPEC members) of between 600,000 and one million barrels per day are needed to prevent prices from falling to \$10 a barrel."

"But this time, the heightening labour unrest has led to increasingly desperate appeals for reason on the part of the authorities, who say it is evident the old way was ineffective."

The impoverished state of the economy is clear.

Horses instead of tractors plow fields, office buildings stand un-

finished for years for lack of funds, ordinary household items such as toilet paper are in chronic short supply, and annual incomes average the equivalent of \$1,080.

In addition, the country is saddled with a \$39 billion foreign debt, the highest in the Eastern Bloc. The debt consumes most of its meager hard currency earnings.

"We have waited very long for this chance and it is important that it not be wasted," government spokesman Jerzy Urban told reporters at a news conference, echoing an oft-repeated theme in the national media.

At least four strikes and several minor work stoppages have broken out in Poland, and virtually every sector of the public is clamoring for high pay to counter price increases of 42 per cent in the first quarter.

It is a repetition of a familiar pattern in Polish postwar history,

with workers automatically demanding higher pay in response to higher prices.

But this time, the heightening labour unrest has led to increasingly desperate appeals for reason on the part of the authorities, who say it is evident the old way was ineffective.

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finished for years for lack of funds, ordinary household items such as toilet paper are in chronic short supply, and annual incomes average the equivalent of \$1,080.

In addition, the country is saddled with a \$39 billion foreign debt, the highest in the Eastern Bloc. The debt consumes most of its meager hard currency earnings.

"We have waited very long for this chance and it is important that it not be wasted," government spokesman Jerzy Urban told reporters at a news conference, echoing an oft-repeated theme in the national media.

At least four strikes and several minor work stoppages have broken out in Poland, and virtually every sector of the public is clamoring for high pay to counter price increases of 42 per cent in the first quarter.

It is a repetition of a familiar pattern in Polish postwar history,

with workers automatically demanding higher pay in response to higher prices.

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Sports

NBA coach inducted into Basketball Hall of Fame

SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts — The coach of the National Basketball Association (NBA) and Washington Bullets, Wes Unseld summed up his playing style in one word — "ugly" — prior to his induction into the Basketball Hall of Fame Tuesday.

"I didn't do anything very pretty. My contributions were in the intangibles," Unseld said. "But they were the type of things that help to lead a team."

Also to be installed were Clyde Lovellette, who ushered in the era of the high-scoring big center at Kansas in the 1950s, Oregon State coach Ralph Miller, the winningest active coach in Division I, and the late Bobby McElrath, who quit high school in his freshman year to become a

pro star in the 1930s.

They bring to 163 the number of individuals installed in the hall of fame. Four teams have also been inducted.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet," said Unseld, who grabbed a hour's sleep after the Bullets 114-106 overtime victory over Detroit Monday before heading for Springfield. "The last couple of games I haven't been able to give much thought to anything else but making the playoffs and trying to do well."

During his 13-year playing career with the Bullets, Unseld averaged 14 rebounds and 10.8 points over 984 games and led the Bullets to the 1978 NBA title.

Lovellette now teaches teenagers who have been in trouble with the law in Wabash-

UEFA limits foreign players in major European competitions

LONDON (AP) — The British soccer clubs are in a state of shock and confusion over radical moves that may bar many of their top stars from European competition.

The sport's European governing body, UEFA, announced Tuesday that beginning in 1991, no club will be allowed to field more than four foreign players in the Champions Cup, Cupwinners Cup or UEFA will hit extremely hard.

"I don't know how the clubs would cope," one British official said.

While the rule theoretically takes effect next season, UEFA adopted a three-year break-in period that allows players already under contract with non-home-land sides to compete.

The new rules coincide with European Community legislation to allow freedom of movement by players, also to be introduced in

1991. UEFA president Jacques Georges said the action was intended to "protect the interests of youth" in every country against the trend of overseas transfers, and give more clubs "an equal chance" of success.

Most countries already impose strict import regulations on foreign players. Some, such as The Netherlands where no restrictions are imposed, will also be affected.

But nowhere will the full force be more strongly felt than in Britain, which for generations has enjoyed free movement of players among clubs from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland.

All these areas have their own national soccer federations and play as separate countries in the World Cup and European Championships.

"Of course British clubs will feel it is particularly harsh," Georges said. "But if you insist on four places in the World Cup,

and four votes within UEFA, you cannot expect to be treated as a special case. We are talking about separate soccer federations not countries. Britain has four federa-

tions, not one."

English clubs are barred from European competition because of the 1985 Heysel stadium riots. A decision on the future of English clubs will be taken by UEFA at the end of June, following the European Championship finals in East Germany.

If the clubs are re-admitted, however, more restrictions will follow in three years' time. And Liverpool, the most successful team in Europe for a decade, could be one of the clubs hardest hit.

"If we take our past history, UEFA's new eligibility rule would make it impossible for us," said Peter Robinson, secretary of Liverpool, a four-time Champions Cup winner.

Werder clinches West German Soccer League Championship

BONN (R) — Werder Bremen clinched the West German first division title that eluded them so narrowly last year by beating Eintracht Frankfurt 1-0 Tuesday.

Werder, who led throughout the 1986-87 season only to be pipped by Bayern Munich in the last weeks of the season, won the title this year with three games still to play. With 50 points, they have an unassailable lead.

Karl-Heinz Riedle scoring the only goal of the match 20 minutes before the final whistle in a game marked by Werder's cautious, defensive play.

National squad member Frank Neubarth slightly soured matters for the new champions by being sent off after elbowing Dieter Schindwein in the face while preventing the Eintracht player from gaining the ball.

Schindwein was taken off on a

stretcher and Neubarth got the red card.

Striker Gunnar Sauer told journalists after the match: "It's a super feeling."

"We've been able to shake off the blues after being knocked out of the UEFA and West German Cup competitions and now we've taken the most important title of the lot."

Bayern remained co-contenders for second place — a reversal of roles with Werder from last season — after thrashing Bochum 5-0 sparked by Welsh international Mark Hughes.

After a goalless first half, Hughes, on loan from 500,000 marks (\$300,000) from Barcelo-

na, scored three times as Bayern suddenly found their form.

The Welshman collected the first in the 51st minute and scored again 11 minutes later, seconds after a goal from Norbert Eder. Hughes got the fourth for his temporary employers and Hans Dörfner wrapped up the scoring four minutes from time.

But Bayern still face a challenge for second place from Cologne, currently one point behind them in the league table.

The Rhinelanders appeared to be out of shape Tuesday when Hamburg SV beat them 3-0 in a game marked by sloppy play by Cologne.

They missed numerous chances to score and Hamburg's 21-year-old striker Harald Speerl, in his first division season, had two of the home team's goals. Bruno Labbadia scored the third seconds before the end.

TENNIS

Perez upsets McEnroe

NEW YORK (AP) — John McEnroe's comeback bid ran into another roadblock Tuesday when he was upset by Diego Perez of Uruguay in the opening round of the Tournament of Champions.

Perez, ranked 136th in the world, beat the fourth-seeded McEnroe 7-6 (7-2), 2-6, 6-3 at the West Side tennis club.

McEnroe played erratically in the first set, making 24 unforced errors, but settled down to win the second set and even the match.

But Perez broke McEnroe twice to take a 5-1 lead in the final set, McEnroe broke back in a lengthy seventh game and held serve to make it 5-3, but Perez then held his serve to close out the 2-hour, 36-minute match.

The loss was a major setback for McEnroe, who is trying to regain the No. 1 ranking he held from 1981-84.

The two-time TOC champion had looked sharp since returning from a seven-month layoff, winning last month's Japan Open and Exhibition Matches against Jimmy Connors and Stefan Edberg. But his form was off against Perez, making 52 unforced errors and double-faulting five times.

Perez, 26, has won only one

tournament in his career. But he has beaten several top players, including Boris Becker, Yannick Noah and Andres Gomez.

Earlier in the day, qualifier Nicolás Pérez of Venezuela upset No. 12 Paul Annacone 7-5, 7-6 (8-6) and No. 9 Jay Berger beat fellow American Martíno Davis 6-2, 6-3. No. 7 Aaron Krickstein beat Juan Aguilera of Spain 2-6, 6-1, 6-2 in a match that was halted by rain after two sets of Moody.

Annacone took a 5-2 lead in the tiebreaker, but Pérez won the next four points to move ahead 6-5. After Annacone saved a match point, Pérez won the next two points to close out the match.

"I've never beaten a famous player in my life, so this is very important to me," said the 17-year-old, who was playing in his first Grand Prix event.

Although ranked only No. 323 in the world, Pérez said he was confident he could beat Annacone, best known for his upset win over McEnroe at the 1986 U.S. Open.

"I played very well through qualifying rounds," he said. "I was feeling very good physically and mentally."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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ONE AT A TIME WILL DO

Neither vulnerable. West deals.

| | |
|-------|--------------|
| NORTH | ♦ A 10 4 |
| | ♦ X 10 |
| WEST | ♦ A K Q 10 2 |
| | ♦ K 8 5 |
| EAST | ♦ Q 3 2 |
| | ♦ A 9 8 |
| SOUTH | ♦ J 6 5 4 |
| | ♦ 9 8 3 |

The bidding:

| | | | |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| West | North | East | South |
| 1 ♠ | Dbl | Pass | 2 ♦ |
| Pass | 2 NT | Pass | 4 ♣ |
| Pass | Pass | Pass | Pass |

Opening lead: Four of ♦

Don't commit yourself to a line of play until it is absolutely necessary. Sometimes you can afford to take your tricks as they come and see what develops.

With just a single stopper in the enemy suit and a hand that he judged too strong for a one-trump overcall, North elected to double first and then invite with two-trump. South felt that his six-card suit and singleton merited trying for the suit game.

West led a low club, and declarer was not sure he liked his contract or

how to proceed. He decided he would simply take what tricks he could and see what transpired. So he took three high clubs, discarding two spades from hand, cashed the ace of spades and ruffed a spade.

Since West was marked with most of the high cards, declarer continued with a low diamond. Rising with the ace would only have solved South's problems for him, so West played low and the queen won. Declarer used his entry to ruff another spade, and then he led a trump. West performed the ace, and whatever he chose to do would help declarer.

Declarer had seven tricks in the hand, and West was caught in an end play. If he continued with the ace and another diamond, he would set up declarer's king and South would simply concede a trick to the queen of hearts and claim his ten tricks. But leading a black suit proved to be better, if West led a club, declarer would follow low from dummy, and East would be helpless. If he ruffed high, declarer would have three high trumps. If he did not ruff, declarer would ruff in hand, cross to the king of trumps and lead a club to score his last trump en passant. On a spade return, he could adopt this elegant line, or ruff with the king and make two more trump tricks in hand performance.

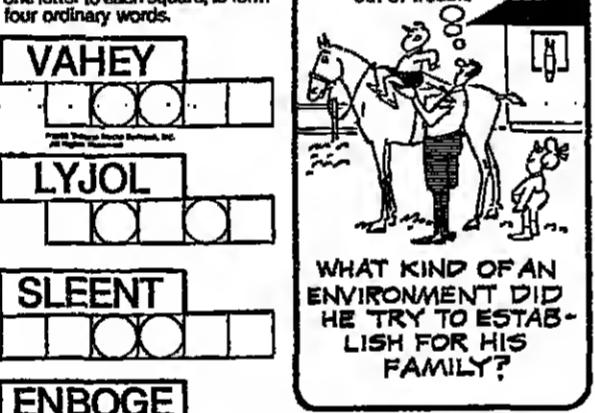
West led a low club, and declarer was not sure he liked his contract or

THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Answer here: A

Jumbles: BATHE HIKER SMUDGE POROUS
Answer: When the cowboys finished branding them, the cows were really this—"IMPRESSED"

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettenson

STATEMENTS
by Wilson McBeath

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 | 39 | 40 | 41 | 42 | 43 | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 | 49 | 50 | 51 | 52 | 53 | 54 | 55 | 56 | 57 | 58 | 59 | 60 | 61 | 62 | 63 | 64 | 65 | 66 | 67 | 68 | 69 | 70 | 71 | 72 | 73 | 74 | 75 | 76 | 77 | 78 | 79 | 80 | 81 | 82 | 83 | 84 | 85 | 86 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 | 96 | 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 | 101 | 102 | 103 | 104 | 105 | 106 | 107 | 108 | 109 | 110 | 111 | 112 | 113 | 114 | 115 | 116 | 117 | 118 | 119 | 120 | 121 | 122 | 123 | 124 | 125 | 126 | 127 | 128 | 129 | 130 | 131 | 132 | 133 | 134 | 135 | 136 | 137 | 138 | 139 | 140 | 141 | 142 | 143 | 144 | 145 | 146 | 147 | 148 | 149 | 150 | 151 | 152 | 153 | 154 | 155 | 156 | 157 | 158 | 159 | 160 | 161 | 162 | 163 | 164 | 165 | 166 | 167 | 168 | 169 | 170 | 171 | 172 | 173 | 174 | 175 | 176 | 177 | 178 | 179 | 180 | 181 | 182 | 183 | 184 | 185 | 186 | 187 | 188 | 189 | 190 | 191 | 192 | 193 | 194 | 195 | 196 | 197 | 198 | 199 | 200 | 201 | 202 | 203 | 204 | 205 | 206 | 207 | 208 | 209 | 210 | 211 | 212 | 213 | 214 | 215 | 216 | 217 | 218 | 219 | 220 | 221 | 222 | 223 | 224 | 225 | 226 | 227 | 228 | 229 | 230 | 231 | 232 | 233 | 234 | 235 | 236 | 237 | 238 | 239 | 240 | 241 | 242 | 243 | 244 | 245 | 246 | 247 | 248 | 249 | 250 | 251 | 252 | 253 | 254 | 255 | 256 | 257 | 258 | 259 | 260 | 261 | 262 | 263 | 264 | 265 | 266 | 267 | 268 | 269 | 270 | 271 | 272 | 273 | 274 | 275 | 276 | 277 | 278 | 279 | 280 | 281 | 28 |
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Dukakis heads for nomination, race with Bush

WASHINGTON (R) — Michael Dukakis is rolling towards the Democratic presidential nomination and an election fight with Republican George Bush after he scored easy wins in the Ohio and Indiana primaries.

Dukakis beat lone Democratic rival Jesse Jackson in the two contests that mattered most, but the black leader blocked the Massachusetts governor from a clean sweep by winning the smaller primary in Washington D.C.

Dukakis won Ohio and Indiana by a better than two-to-one margin over Jackson, who easily swept the nation's capital, which has a 70 per cent black population.

With about two-thirds of Indiana's vote recorded, Dukakis led Jackson by 68 to 24 per cent. In



Michael Dukakis

Ohio, with about 70 per cent of the vote counted, Dukakis won 64 to 26 per cent. Jackson won Washington by 77 to 21 per cent.

Dukakis has won nine major races since he lost to Jackson in Michigan March 26, the first and only large industrial state won by the Baptist preacher.

Vice-President Bush, who clinched the Republican presidential nomination last week in the Pennsylvania primary, accused Dukakis of a doom and gloom campaign, during a speech celebrating his wins in Ohio, Indiana

and Washington.

He told cheering supporters at a Washington hotel: "My view is, let Mike Dukakis go around talking about pink slips (dismissals), despair, pessimism in the United States."

"I'll be the guy out there talking about hope and opportunity and challenge, and the fact that the United States is the fairest and the most decent nation on the face of the earth. Let them apologize for America, and let me lead her to new greatness."

At his own news conference in Boston Tuesday night, Dukakis refused to be drawn into a fight against Bush — even though Dukakis has previously called him a "blank slate" with unknown policies.

"I would hope we can keep it mostly — both of us," Dukakis said.

In Noumea, which could easily

be mistaken for a port in southern France because of its pastel-coloured houses and neat palm-fringed boulevards, riot police patrol in vans at night while bar owners advertising 24-hour business close before midnight.

"Everything has stopped," said Philippe Melician, co-owner of a local real estate firm.

He said residents were anxiously awaiting the results of the second round of French presidential elections May 8 to see

Kanak rebellion hits New Caledonia business

NOUMEA, New Caledonia (R) — Business was virtually at a standstill in New Caledonia Wednesday amid tension over a 13-day-old hostage drama and other separatist unrest.

"Small trading has stopped — it's a reflex of fear," said Raymond Bouvard, president of the territory's small business association.

"There are hardly any customers out on the street, in the stores, in the restaurants," he said.

Public attention was focused on events in a remote cave on an island off the north-east coast where about 11 Kanaks (Melanesians) were holding captive 23 French law officers. French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua ruled out negotiations with the kidnappers.

Many Kanaks, who make up 43 per cent of the territory's 145,000 population, say white settlers have driven them off the best land and deprived them of political rights.

Some settlers warned they would "fight fire with fire" if separatist unrest worsened.

A leading Kanak separatist called Wednesday for a dialogue between the two communities.

"All of us here must learn to live together. We must talk," Leopold Jorede of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) told Reuters.

"If we've taken up our guns against the French troops, it's to earn the right to live, not end up in a cemetery," he said.

In Noumea, which could easily



Hooded Kanak militants armed with guns and axes man a barricade they erected near Canala in New Caledonia as part of their rebellion

another economic slump like one that hit the territory after 32 people died in violence between separatists and pro-French loyalists in 1984 and early 1985.

"The situation is worse this time. Last time there was space for dialogue, but now that possibility seems to have been exhausted," Bouvard said.

The FLNKS has been pressing Paris to appoint a mediator to start talks on independence.

Businessmen said they feared

COLUMN

Nun caught stealing panties pleads poverty

SAO PAULO (R) — A Brazilian nun was arrested in São Paulo after stealing two embroidered lace panties and some silverware she intended to send to her poor sister, police said Tuesday. Catharina Ribeiro dos Santos, 49, made a purchase for her Franciscan colleagues at a local department store and paid. But she then slipped two pairs of panties, three forks and three knives into her shopping bag, police said. At the police station she confessed her crime but pleaded poverty. In tears, she told reporters she was "more humiliated than Christ on the cross."

Two charged in lottery forgery

HARRISBURG (AP) — Authorities accused a computer operator from a company that helps run the state lottery with forging a winning \$15.2-million ticket and another man with trading it in for the jackpot. Mark S. Herbst, 33 of Harrisburg, was arraigned Tuesday, less than a week after he traded in the ticket for the first \$469,989 instalment of the prize from a super 7 drawing last July 15. He was jailed in lieu of \$50,000 bail. Jailed in lieu of bail Monday night was computer operator Henry Arthur Rich, also 33 of Harrisburg, who tried to flee, arresting officers said.

Rich is said to have used a computer at his firm, control data corp., to identify unclaimed jackpots and to print a copy of the unclaimed winning ticket, which he gave to Herbst. He contended Rich obtained information about the winning ticket from the lottery's main computer, which he had access to as a trouble-shooter. Herbst claimed he had used the ticket as a bookmark until he saw a newspaper story about the unclaimed prize. James Scroggins, the lottery's executive director, said doubts arose because the bogus ticket was printed on a blank from a Scranton lottery ticket outlet, while a computer check showed the actual winner was sold in Bucks county.

Authorities stand by 'forged' Ludovisi throne

ROME (R) — Custodians of Rome's art treasures have sprung to the defence of the city's Ludovisi throne, a supposed classical Greek masterpiece suddenly under intense scrutiny after a claim that it is a modern fake. A statement by Rome's Department of Archaeology Tuesday said until a case was made against the authenticity of the throne, it would stay on display at the national Roman museum. A leading art critic, Professor Federico Zeri, claimed last week that documents found in Sweden established the throne, said to date from 500 BC, as a 19th century forgery. The throne depicts in relief young woman, probably Aphrodite, the goddess of love, being helped from water by two maid-servants.

Unusual sentence for 7 murders

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A man convicted of murdering seven women and letting their bodies rot faces life in prison rather than death under an unusual sentence handed down Tuesday. Common pleas Judge Robert A. Latrone issued six death sentences against Harrison "Marty" Graham but ordered him first to serve up to 14 years in prison on seven counts of abuse of a corpse and life in prison for the remaining murder. Latrone, who ordered the sentences to run consecutively, explained that he chose life in prison over the death penalty on the first murder count because of a mitigating circumstance — the lack of a previous record. Graham could not apply for parole during the life sentence, however, without putting the death sentence into effect.

Defence attorney Joel Moldovsky said. Police found the bodies of seven women in August 1987, after Graham was evicted from his apartment because of a putrid stench.

Peking bank branch runs out of cash

PEKING (R) — A Peking man who went to get cash from his bank account was told he would have to wait until others made a deposit because the bank was out of money. The Economic Daily Wednesday printed a letter from the angry customer describing his long wait at the bank. He said another customer who needed money to pay for one of his family to go to hospital also had to go without cash.

Marcos denied permission to attend mother's funeral

MANILA (AP) — The mother of Ferdinand Marcos died Wednesday, but President Corazon Aquino told the nation the deposed president would not be allowed to return for the funeral because he remains a threat to national security.

In Hawaii, Marcos said he was "completely shocked" by the death of his 95-year-old mother, Josefina Edralin-Marcos, and vowed he would seek to return. Marcos supporters in the Philippines denounced Aquino's decision.

Marcos said in a statement read to reporters by an aide that he would "exhaust all possibilities that may be available to us to return to our motherland, to help save her from the threatened communist takeover or a possible civil war."

Dr. Sergio Brillantes, director of Veterans Memorial Medical Centre said Edralin-Marcos suffered cardiac arrest at noon (0400 GMT) and was pronounced dead 20 minutes later.

In a nationally televised address, Aquino expressed condolences to the Marcos family, but said:

"After careful assessment in consultation with the leadership of both chambers of congress and the cabinet committee, I regret that considerations of national welfare, which are above individual."

"It was a very difficult but very serious decision," Soriano said.

"We might summarise it in terms of what is best for the common good at this time, what is best for national stability at this time."

WASHINGTON (AP) — Panamanian officials have told opposition party leaders that military强人Manuel Antonio Noriega is considering stepping down as defence chief Aug. 12, an opposition spokesman said Tuesday.

Guillermo Cocbez, a spokesman for Panama's Christian Democratic Party, also quoted President Manuel Solis Palma as saying that an agreement on Panama's political future may be signed this week.

Cocbez said the Aug. 12 departure date for Noriega is under consideration because that is the fifth anniversary of his accession as defense chief as a prelude to a transition to democratic rule.

Reagan administration officials refused to discuss Cocbez's comments, noting that a government-wide news blackout on the Panamanian issue has been imposed.

But Panama's political future has been the subject of continuing negotiations between U.S. officials and a variety of Panamanians, both in and out of

government.

Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams met Tuesday with Panama's Ambassador Juan B. Sosa, a leader of the anti-Noriega forces in exile. There was no report on the meeting.

Cocbez and Aurelio Barra, a leader of another group opposed to Noriega, spoke to reporters at the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, which is affiliated with the Democratic Party.

The administration, in a policy shift, said last week it is no longer insisting that Noriega leave Panama and would settle for his resignation as defense chief as a prelude to a transition to democratic rule.

Word of the policy shift has angered the Panamanian opposition, which maintains that the country's political future is for Panamanians to decide, not the United States.

"The U.S. has no right to decide if a Panamanian can stay or not in the country," Barra said.

Fuel problem said to have caused Boeing failure

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Boeing 747 that landed outside Tokyo with only one engine operating had run out of fuel for the other three, aviation sources in and out of the U.S. government said.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said that the tanks supplying fuel in the three dead engines were found to be dry when the plane landed.

The fourth tank had about 9,070 kilograms of fuel remaining and was in no imminent danger of also going dry.

It was not known whether the fuel problem had been caused by a pilot error or by a mechanical problem with the plane's fuel-switching equipment. On a Boeing 747, fuel is routinely transferred from tank to tank during a long flight to balance the aircraft.

One source said it is possible that a fuel line or filter could have kept the fuel from being shifted properly or the flight crew by mistake might have shifted too much into the fourth tank and not been able to shift it back in time.

The Boeing Jumbo jet has a variety of gauges to tell the flight crew how much fuel has been burned and how much is left. The flight engineer in the three-per-

son cockpit normally performs his own calculations as to fuel burn and availability as well.

"Either one of two things happened. Either the crew messed up or the transfer pump or valves or lines were not working properly," said the source.

The plane, United Airlines Flight 97 from Los Angeles to Tokyo with 239 passengers and 19 crew members aboard, first lost the use of one engine at 11,588 metres over the Pacific Ocean about 75 minutes from the airport. A second engine failed about 30 minutes later.

Pilot Jack Harper radioed the control tower at 2:49 p.m. that he had shut down two of the four engines due to malfunctions and asked permission to land. A third engine failed shortly before landing.

The plane touched down safely at the airport in Narita, 65 kilometres northeast of Tokyo.

The Washington Post reported the fuel starvation problem in Tuesday's editions.

A Tokyo newspaper, Yomiuri Shimbun, said that during the flight, the gauge that indicates how much fuel is feeding into the engines showed there was almost no fuel going into engines one and four and that the No. 3 engine was malfunctioning.

In Bucaramanga, police said that city's 59-year-old West Germany consul, Sigfried Makerkurt, was kidnapped Tuesday.

Scientists dismayed at Reagan astrology report

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists expressed dismay at reports that some White House astrologers might have been based on astrology, with one saying, "that's not the type of guidance we need from the federal government."

Andrew Fraknoi, an astronomy professor at San Francisco State University and executive officer of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, said that the claims of astrology have been subjected to dozens of scientific tests and have been found totally without foundation.

In one test, he said, two scientists examined more than 3,000

predictions by astrologers and found that they were correct less than 10 per cent of the time.

"If the predictions are wrong 90 per cent of the time, that's not the type of guidance we need from the federal government," Fraknoi said Tuesday in a telephone interview from his San Francisco office.

He said she chose Bush as the best man to be Reagan's vice president shortly before Reagan won the nomination that year.

Jillson, who writes a newspaper column on astrology, told Reuters Tuesday that from studying the stars she could tell when

good time for such conferences.

The Los Angeles astrologer also implied she was a factor in the selection of George Bush for second place on the Reagan presidential ticket in 1980.

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Doctors separate Siamese twins at Soweto hospital

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Doctors Wednesday performed follow-up surgery on one of the 17-month-old Siamese twins who were separated in a lengthy operation a day earlier, officials at Soweto's Baragwanath Hospital said.

Mpho and Mpibanya Mathibela, who had been joined at the head, were separated in a seven-and-a-half-hour operation Tuesday by a 40-person medical team at Baragwanath, the main hospital in the township outside Johannesburg.

Mpho, the smaller and weaker of the two, began bleeding from the incision in her head early Wednesday and required additional surgery, the hospital said. Following the operation, she was returned to the intensive care unit.

Both girls were in critical but stable condition, the hospital said without elaboration.

"I always knew they would be all right," said Sophie Mathibela, mother of the girls. "I feel so happy."

Doctors at Johns Hopkins Hospital in the United States, who last year separated West German Siamese twins joined at the head, advised the Baragwanath doctors before the operation and called to offer congratulations following the surgery.

Meanwhile, honorary consuls of France and Panama escaped kidnap attempts Tuesday.

In Bern, the Swiss Foreign Ministry Wednesday confirmed the abduction of two Swiss and two West Germans. Foreign Ministry spokesman Michael Pache said security has been stepped up.

Pache declined to provide details, but he said the kidnappers have not made any demands. He identified the men as Richard Aufderhege, 47, general secretary of the Colombian-Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Bogota, and Wilfredo Lehner, 46, acting secretary of the humanitarian aid Paz en la Tierra.

Police said the five men were kidnapped by the National Liberation Army and the People's Liberation Army, which form part of the leftist national guerrilla coordinating organisation.

Callers identifying themselves as being members of another National Liberation Army cell telephoned Bogota radio stations, saying they were holding Jean Cristopher Rampal, a French embassy press official who disappeared last weekend.

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The pump, smaller than a pen-

Tiny device could help heart patients survive

HOUSTON (AP) — A device about the size of a pencil eraser saved a heart transplant recipient's life and could help many of the 150,000 Americans who suffer heart attacks each year, surgeons at the Texas Heart Institute said Tuesday.